

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1, 3 and 7 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8-10 have been canceled and new claims 11-20 have been added to the present application. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 11-20 are presented for examination.

In the outstanding Office action dated November 27, 2002, claim 7 was objected to for reciting a number of informalities. Claim 7 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and therefore, it is believed that the objection to claim 7 has been traversed. Additionally, claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and thus, it is believed that claim 1 now satisfies the requirements of § 112, second paragraph.

In the November 2002 Office action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Taheri (U.S. 5,948,017). Claims 5 and 7 were deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under § 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response thereto, claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter previously recited in claims 2, 4 and 5 in order to effectively rewrite claim 5 in independent form. As such, it is believed that claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom now define patentable subject matter.

Additionally, new claims 11-20 have been presented for examination. It is believed that claims 11-20 recite subject matter which is patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to respond to each and every rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant

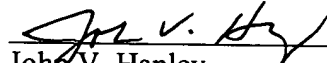
respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for the percutaneous insertion of a graft supported by at least one attachment system within the vascular system of a patient, the graft capable of assuming a compressed condition and an uncompressed condition, and the at least one attachment system being compressible radially between a compressed and an expanded condition, the method comprising:

[percutaneously] inserting the graft into the vascular system by direct percutaneous insertion;

applying a traction force to opposing ends of the graft to control the position of the graft within the vasculature, wherein the traction force is carried out using a plurality of catheters, each catheter configured to exert a force on the graft from a different point outside the vasculature;

positioning the graft adjacent a diseased portion of the vascular system;

subsequently inserting at least one attachment system into the graft in compressed condition by direct percutaneous insertion into a point of access to the vascular system over a prepositioned guidewire;

positioning the at least one attachment system within the bore of the graft;

activating the at least one attachment system from its compressed condition to its expanded condition; and

implanting the attachment system in the graft to form a seal between the graft and the vascular wall.

3. (Amended) The method of claim [2]1, wherein the [graft feeding]inserting step includes:

inserting the graft in compressed condition by direct percutaneous insertion into a point of access to the vascular system over a prepositioned guidewire;

[applying a traction force to opposing ends of the graft to control the position of the graft within the vasculature;] and

activating the graft from its compressed condition to its uncompressed condition.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the graft is configured to have a bifurcated profile having [an]a superior trunk with an superior end and first and second inferior legs each with an inferior end, and wherein a first catheter having a first end and a second end is releasably connected by the first end to the superior end of the graft and configured so that the second end thereof extends through a point of access to the vasculature in the left axillary artery, a second catheter having a first end and a second end is releasably connected by the first end to the inferior end [pf]of the first leg and configured so that the second end thereof extends through a point of access to the vasculature in a first iliac artery, and a third catheter having a first and second end is releasably connected by the first end to the [second leg's] inferior end and configured so that the second end thereof extends through a point of access to the vasculature in a second iliac artery.